

Application/Control Number : 10/015,764
Art Unit: 3635
March 10, 2004
Page 5

Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 as being anticipated by a new document in the name of Ferrer (US-5,819,804)

Accordingly, the applicant has amended claim 1, as well as claim 7, in order to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

As can be seen, the amended claim 1 now recites, in addition to the already claimed features, that sealing means are provided downstream of said elastically deformable element, connected spaced with respect to said deformable element and adapted to circumferentially abut against inner wall of said tubular body.

The claimed solution refers to element 22 clearly disclosed both in the specification and in the drawings.

Such element has the purpose of avoiding that the elastically deformable element comes into direct contact with the concrete and it further behaves like a sort of "further filter" with respect to the concrete flow.

Such additional filter element is neither disclosed nor even suggested in the prior art of record and in Ferrer the deformable element comes to be in direct contact with the flowing liquid with the result of premature wear and not so good seal against the inner wall of the tube or pipe.

Thus, it can be seen that the applicant's new claimed arrangement is both new and unobvious over the prior art of record and it further provides advantages with respect to the technical solution proposed by Ferrer.

In view of the above, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested and grant of the patent is kindly solicited.

Application/Control Number : 10/015,764

Art Unit: 3635

March 10, 2004

Page 6

It will be noted that a sincere effort has been made to positively respond to all of the points raised by the Examiner.

While it is believed that the amended claims properly define the present invention, applicant would be open to any suggestion the Examiner may have concerning different claim phraseology which, in the Examiner's opinion, more accurately defines the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)
Agent for the Applicant

Date: March 10, 2004

Address: Via Meravigli 16, 20123 MILAN-ITALY
Telephone: (from USA) (011)(39)(02)8590-7777
Telefax: (from USA)(011)(39)(02)863-860